

Michigan Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council
May 1, 2009, Meeting Summary

The Friday May 1, 2009, WRCAC Meeting was held in the Wexford A Room of McGuire's Resort at from 10:00 to 3:00.

Council members in attendance were Dr. Bryan Burroughs, James Clift, Jon Coleman, Frank Ettawageshik, Michael Gregg, Dr. Jo Latimore, Mark Lemons, Peter Manning, Timothy Neumann, Scott Piggott, Dr. Paul Seelbach, Richard Slevatz, Dr. Pat Soranno, Bob Walther, and Paul Zuger.

Absent members were Jon Allan, Sumedh Bahl, Craig Hoffman, Michael Newman, Frank Ruswick, and Samuel Wendling.

Guests present were Mark Beyer, Gary Dawson, Abby Eaton, Pat Fouchey, Fred Goldberg, Dave Hamilton, Rita Jack, Tammy Newcomb, and Grenetta Thomassey.

Welcome - Review minutes - Review agenda and Goals for the Day

James Clift introduced himself and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

On behalf of the Council, James Clift thanked Tim Neumann for hosting today's meeting.

James Clift asked if everyone had a chance to view the Draft Summary of April 3 WRCAC.doc. The council approved the Draft Summary of April 3 WRCAC Meeting.doc with suggested change be posted to the www.michigan.gov/wrcac webpage.

James Clift asked if there were any agenda adjustments or informational items.

Tammy Newcomb informed the group that the \$75,000 of General Fund money that was intended to provide support for additional fish community and temperature data for the water assessment tool was reduced to \$46,900 in December. A Request for Proposals process was conducted and a successful group of investigators was identified. When the contract went through the purchasing process (AdBoard), the contract was removed from the agenda by the Governor's office citing lack of General Fund dollars for this expenditure. Fisheries Division looked for several other avenues to try to continue the project but were unsuccessful. Unfortunately the project will not be funded. James Clift said that next Tuesday, we should expect an executive order to help balance the budget. All budgets could be in jeopardy.

Subcommittee Reports

Tool Recommendation Subcommittee

Dr. Paul Seelbach

At 10:07 Paul Seelbach said the subcommittee hasn't met since last month. On April 9, 2009, Mike Newman and Scott Piggott personally delivered the *Evaluation of Accuracy and Operation of the Water Withdrawal Assessment Screening Tool Submitted by the Michigan Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council to the Michigan Legislature – April 9, 2009* report to the designated Legislators (their office). Scott Piggott distributed copies of the April 9, 2009, Report to all present today. Available at the WRCAC Website of http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WRCAC_evaluation_report_4-8-09_277391_7.pdf

Impacts on Lakes + +

Dr. Pat Soranno

At 10:08 Pat Soranno said the subcommittee met last week. The subcommittee is making progress. Have invited Don Uzarski of Central Michigan University to the subcommittee meetings.

Law Conflict

Peter Manning

At 10:10 Peter Manning said the subcommittee hasn't met yet. Peter Manning said he did send out literature to the subcommittee members. Peter Manning said he doesn't see any law conflict problems.

Conservation

Scott Piggott

At 10:12 Scott Piggott said their draft is ten pages long. The committee realizes that is way too long. It needs to be condensed. There hasn't been any more work done on it since it was reviewed at the March 6 WRCAC Meeting. The subcommittee has looked at what Wisconsin has done.

Preventative Measures

Dr. Bryan Burroughs

This subcommittee has not yet met. Bryan Burroughs not yet here. (He arrived at 10:45.)

Educational Materials

Jon Coleman

At 10:13 Jon Coleman distributed and discussed the subcommittee's April 27 Educational Materials Subcommittee Notes.

Today Jon Coleman spoke with Dave Hamilton who seems to be on all of the subcommittees. Jon Coleman is grateful for Dave Hamilton's input and agreement to be on the Educational Materials Subcommittee also.

James Clift said Trout Unlimited, Sierra Club, MEC, and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, along with Dr. David Lusch from Michigan State University's Institute for Water Research, are planning to host 6 to 8 sessions around the state geared to water conservation groups and watershed planners about the use of the water withdrawal assessment screening tool.

Jon Coleman said his outline suggests templates / materials be gathered. He thinks the subcommittee can put this together but not before the August 9, 2009, report.

Program Funding / Data Quality Committee

Paul Zugger

At 10:23 Paul Zugger said at the April WRCAC meeting discussed funding especially the State budget being up in the air because of shortfalls. Paul Zugger asked Frank Ruswick to do some follow-up regarding online reporting. Discussed how it could be raised to a higher priority. Paul Zugger was told that DIT would be open to allow an outside party (USGS) to make an online water user reporting program. Dave Hamilton thinks the funding that was allotted can be directed to USGS. There have been meetings between DEQ, DIT AND USGS. Paul Zugger said his subcommittee would keep on top on that.

Break-out Sessions

From 10:30 till noon the Tool Recommendation Subcommittee, the Impacts on Lakes ++ Subcommittee and the Educational Materials Subcommittee meet.

Lunch

Thanks to Tim Neumann of the Michigan Rural Water Association out of Harrison Michigan a soup and sandwich buffet was served to all present from noon to 1:00 pm.

Subcommittee Reports

The subcommittee chairs need to get a written outline of their subcommittee report to Pat Fouchey (fouchey@Michigan.gov) by May 15.

Impacts on Lakes + +

Dr. Pat Soranno

At 1:11 Pat Soranno said the basic outline hasn't changed much from the April interim report. Still focusing on evidence needed to determine if the screening tool may or may not be able to determine if a water withdrawal would adversely impact wetlands / lakes. Looking for a functional connection between tool metrics and wetlands/ lake metrics. If a groundwater withdrawal makes a stream withdrawal permissible, will it negatively affect the wetland? This is one issue the subcommittee is trying to tackle.

Dave Hamilton and Howard Reeves are working on an approach to examine the current tool in light of wetland and lakes that may be sensitive to groundwater withdrawal.

Have some candidate metrics for wetlands IE: bugs and wetland plants are likely candidate metrics.

On May 28 from 1 to 3 at the MUCC Building at 2101 Wood Street in Lansing Michigan (517-371-1041) will be the next meeting. Everyone / anyone who would like to attend are encouraged to join. There will also be a meeting on June 18 from 1 to 3 at the MUCC Building.

Educational Materials

Jon Coleman

At 1:17 Jon Coleman said Rita Jack took notes during the breakout session, so he handed the floor over to Rita Jack. Rita Jack gave details of how the Educational Material Subcommittee August 9, 2009, Report will look.

1:24 - 132 Agricultural Large Capacity Well Use Report

Abby Easton said with 90% of the data inputted this year from farmers reporting use of their large capacity wells, had 1488 farms reporting. 2200 farms are in the data base. Some farms in the database are under 70 gallon users that no long need to report and some that didn't use water this past year won't report.

Paul Zugger asked: do you know the total number of farms. Abby Easton said Michigan Agricultural Statistical Service does a 5 year report. Possibly that could give you the information. Scott Piggott said the Farm Bureau printed 5,000 informational flyers and then printed another 2,500. All have been distributed. The informational flyer is titled: *Water Resource Guide*; a 34 page PDF available on the Farm Bureau website at <http://www.michiganfarmbureau.com/mfb>. Scott Piggott said he attended a Michigan Milk Producers Meeting. They also got the word out. Paul Seelbach said there is a factual sheet on the MSU Extension website of <http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/> under publications titled *Considering Aquatic Ecosystems: The Basis for Michigan's New Water Withdrawal Assessment Process*. Paul Seelbach inquired if it was on the WRCAC site. Yes the pdf can also be found at the www.michigan.gov/wrcac website. under MISC.

1:32- 1:35 Public comment

Jon Coleman passed out a handout – attachment 1. The Lansing Areas Wellhead Protection Communities built a groundwater model at the Impression 5 Science Museum located at 200 Museum Drive in Lansing, Michigan (517- 485-8116). The grand opening for the model will be on June 2. The model is called Impressions of Groundwater. The model was built at a cost of about \$40,000 with total cost of \$50,000. The only one other known model of this type is in Toronto museum.

1:35 – 1:45 Next Meetings**James Clift**

June 5, 2009, from 9:00 – 2:00 at the Drummond Island Resort & Conference Center at 33494 S Maxton Road on Drummond Island, Michigan hosted by Craig Hoffman.

July 10 – no location yet. If you are able to sponsor a location, inform Pat at Foucheyp@michigan.gov

August 7 – Constitution Hall Lansing

Report due August 9

There will be no council meeting in September.

The October meeting will be on the second Friday. – October 9th. It will be in the Mason Building in Lansing on 7th floor in the Meeting Room – This is a change from the original schedule. Please mark the second Friday October 9th.for the meeting date.

Nov 6 – still need a location

There will be no meeting in December.

1:45 – 3:00 Breakout Sessions

Tool Recommendation Subcommittee
Preventative Measures
Education
to set a meeting date

Dr. Paul Seelbach
Dr. Bryan Burroughs
Jon Coleman

3:00 Adjourned

Impressions of Groundwater

Question: Where is the one place almost all mid-Michigan students visit?

Answer: Impression 5 Science Museum.

Armed with that knowledge, the Lansing Area Wellhead Protection Communities approached the Impression 5 Science Museum with a proposal to create a groundwater education and outreach program and a Standing Groundwater Exhibit.

Impression 5 enthusiastically agreed to the proposal and the project quickly moved forward. Funding was received from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Wellhead Protection grant program and work began July 1, 2008.

An advisory committee comprised of Bill Maier, Lansing Board of Water and Light, Carol Luukkenon, USGS, Christine Spitzley, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC), John O'Malia, O'Malia Consulting, Tim Hartner, Layne Northern and Impression 5 staff was established and has met regularly to create, design, and implement this project.

The project has two components. The first is the development of a Standing Groundwater Exhibit which will be located in the existing Lansing Board of Water and Light Water Room at Impression 5.

The Groundwater Exhibit will be seven feet high and eight feet wide. It will represent a cross section of the aquifer in urban, suburban and rural areas. It will depict local water resources and the potential threats to them. The lower portion of the

exhibit will be a cross section of local aquifers and subsurface infrastructure. The upper part of the exhibit will be representative of local landmarks and land uses. Real water will be used in the model mimicking the hydrologic cycle. Dye will be used to portray contamination incidents and to track plumes in subsurface materials.

The second component of the project is education and outreach. TCRPC staff and local industry experts worked with the education/outreach staff at Impression 5 to teach them about local groundwater and the issues

that must be understood and addressed to assure a continued safe drinking water supply. The goal is for Impression 5 to integrate this course into their current curriculum offerings both in the museum and in their outreach programs. Local utilities anticipate a long term relationship with Impression 5 and will continue to act in an advisory capacity answering questions and providing technical expertise and resources as requested.

Impression 5 Custom Simulator
DRAFT 2
revision 12-30-08
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Front View

